



ORDER OF WORSHIP

October 27, 2024 | 11 AM

GATHER TO WORSHIP

THOUGHTS FOR PREPARATION

The Reformation brought a transformative understanding of vocation and work, challenging the prevailing notion that work is merely a means to survive. Instead, Scripture emphasizes that work is a divine calling meant to glorify God. The concept of vocation, derived from the Latin word for "calling," extends beyond mere employment to encompass all aspects of life dedicated to God's glory. The Reformers, particularly Martin Luther, advocated for the idea that every role, whether in the church or secular life, is a holy calling. This holistic view of labor encourages individuals to see their work—be it noble or menial—as an opportunity to fulfill their created purpose and reflect God's glory in all they do.

PRELUDE | *He, Watching Over Israel*

Mendelssohn/Parks

INTROIT | *Sing Joyfully*

Howard Tappan

Sing joyfully to God, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him with joyful song. Know that the Lord is God.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Courtney McLaughlin, Pastor of Equipping

Please stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

Courtney McLaughlin

Come, worship the Lord.

For he is good and gracious to us, his people!

We gather to declare this time to be set apart as a holy offering to the Lord.

We also acknowledge the call to glorify God in all that we do, and the sacredness of our labor.

May our hearts be open to the truth of our vocation, recognizing it as a divine calling.

Let us dedicate this time to reflect on how our lives can honor God through our work.

May our worship, our work, and all of our lives be a testament to his glory and grace.

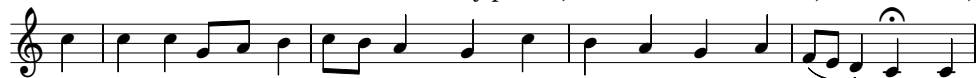
We worship God, who is the Lord over all of our lives. He is our Mighty Fortress, our Rock and our Deliverer! We worship our great God!

GATHERING HYMN | *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

EIN' FESTE BURG



1. A might-y for - tress is our God, A bul-wark nev - er fail - ing;
2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, Our striv - ing would be los - ing;
- (choir) 3. And tho' this world, with dev - ils filled, Should threat - en to un - do us,
4. That word a - bove all earth - ly pow'rs, No thanks to them, a - bid - eth;



Our help - er He, a - mid the flood Of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing: For
Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choos - ing: Dost
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri - umph thro' us: The
The Spir - it and the gifts are ours Thro' Him who with us sid - eth: Let



still our an - cient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and pow'r are
ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is He; Lord Sab - a - oth, His
Prince of Dark - ness grim, We trem - ble not for him; His rage we can en -
goods and kin - dred go, This mor - tal life al - so; The bod - y they may



great, And, armed with cru - el hate, On earth is not His e - qual.
name, From age to age the same, And He must win the bat - tle.
dure, For lo, his doom is sure, One lit - tle word shall fell him.
kill: God's truth a - bid - eth still, His king - dom is for - ev - er.

Martin Luther's hymn is forever associated with the Protestant Reformation and Reformation Sunday. Perhaps more importantly, it is a paraphrase of the majestic Psalm 46, with the final verse being Luther's vow - and our own - to cling to God's Word and Truth in the face of life's stresses.

PRAYER OF PRAISE

James Melchers, Elder

O Lord, we praise You for the gift of work and the purpose You have given us.

We adore You for calling us to serve and glorify You in every aspect of our lives.

Thank You for the talents and opportunities You have bestowed upon us.

We worship You for Your faithfulness in guiding our hands and hearts in all our endeavors.

AMEN.

Please be seated

ANTHEM | We Are the Lord's

LONDONDERRY AIR
arr. Roland Martin

We are the Lord's; His all sufficient merit,
Sealed on the cross, to us this grace accords.
We are the Lord's and all things shall inherit;
Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

We are the Lord's; then let us gladly tender
Our souls to Him in deeds, not empty words.
Let heart and tongue and life combine to render
No doubtful witness that we are the Lord's.

We are the Lord's; no darkness brooding o'er us
Can make us tremble while this star affords
A steady light along the path before us—
Faith's full assurance that we are the Lord's.

We are the Lord's; no evil can befall us
In the dread hour of life's fast loosening cords;
No pangs of death shall even then appall us.
Death we shall vanquish, for we are the Lord's.

PREPARATION FOR CONFESSION

James Melchers

If we confess our
sins, God is faithful
and just and will
forgive us our sins
and purify us from all
unrighteousness.
(1 John 1:9). We
confess publicly,
knowing that we are
a forgiven people.

Join me as we enter into a time of confession. As we consider our calling,
let us acknowledge the times we have viewed work as a burden rather
than a blessing.

**We confess that we have often lost sight of our purpose
and failed to glorify You in our daily tasks.**

Let us come before God with humble hearts, seeking His forgiveness
and renewal, beginning with a moment for silent reflection.

A moment of silence.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we confess that we have given in to
the world's view of work as merely a means to an end.

**We have neglected to see our vocations
as opportunities to serve You and others.**

Forgive us for the times we have grumbled
instead of giving thanks for our work.

**Help us to embrace our callings with joy and dedication,
reflecting Your glory in all we do.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news: God is merciful and gracious,
ready to forgive those who turn to Him.

In Christ, we are made new, and our work is redeemed for His glory.

Be glad in the assurance that your labor is not in vain,
for it is a calling from God.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

We rejoice in our vocations and commit to honoring God in all we do.

Please stand

SONG OF PRAISE | *Gloria Patri*

GREATOREX

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.

World without end, Amen. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | *Heidelberg Confession, Day 1*

James Melchers

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**That I am not my own, but belong— body and soul,
in life and in death to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.**

**He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.**

**He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the
will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.**

**Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

HYMN FOR ILLUMINATION | *The Solid Rock*

SOLID ROCK



1. My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and right-ous-ness; I
2. When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un-chang-ing grace; in
3. His oath, his cov-e-nant, his blood sup-port me in the whelming flood; when
4. When he shall come with trum-pet sound, O may I then in him be found, dressed



dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but wholly lean on Je-sus' name.
ev-ery high and storm-y gale my anchor holds with-in the veil. On Christ the sol-id
all a-round my soul gives way he then is all my hope and stay.
in his righteous-ness a-lone, fault-less to stand be-fore the throne.



Rock I stand; all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand; all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Because we have been reconciled to God and one another,
we use this moment to bless one another with God's peace.

Please be seated

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Courtney McLaughlin

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.**

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. AMEN.

PREPARATION FOR THE OFFERING

Please remain seated

OFFERTORY SONG | *Before You I Kneel*

Getty

led by Vickie Wagner



1. Be - fore You I kneel my Mas - ter and Mak - er To of - fer the work of my hands For
2. Be - fore You I kneel and ask for Your good - ness To cov - er the work of my hands For
3. Be - fore You we kneel our Mas - ter and Mak - er Es - tab - lish the work of our hands And



this is the day You've giv - en Your ser - vant I will re - joice and be glad
pa - tience and peace to shape all my la - bor Your grace for thorns in my path
or - der our steps to seek first Your king - dom In eve - ry small and great task



For the strength I have to live and breathe For each skill Your grace has giv - en me
Flow with - in me like a liv - ing stream Wear a - way the stones of pride and greed
May we live the gos - pel of Your grace Serve Your pur - pose in our fleet - ing days



For the needs and op - por - tu - ni - ties That will glo - ri - fy Your great name
'Til Your ways are dwell - ing deep in me And a har - vest of life is grown
Then our lives will bring e - ter - nal praise And all glo - ry to Your great name.

SCRIPTURE READING | Genesis 1:26-2:3, 2:10-15

Courtney McLaughlin & James Melchers

THE WORD

MESSAGE | The Design and Dignity of Work (Gen. 1:26-2:3, 2:10-15)

Emmanuel Paulpeter,
Pastor of Outreach

SENDING

Please stand

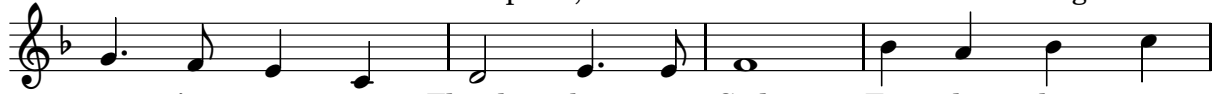
Some of the best hymn tunes are from Welsh tradition of hymn singing. AR HYD Y NOS is the tune name meaning "All Through the Night", the Welsh folk song associated with this tune. The tune is lovely, and probably familiar. The text is not as familiar, but the reason for singing it this morning will be quite clear!

SENDING HYMN | *For The Fruit of All Creation*

AR HYD Y NOS



1. For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, Thanks be to God. For His gifts to
2. In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done. In the help we
3. For the har - vests of the Spir - it, Thanks be to God. For the good we



ev - 'ry na - tion, Thanks be to God. For the plow - ing,
give our neigh - bor, God's will is done. In our world - wide
all in - her - it, Thanks be to God. For the won - ders



sow - ing, reap - ing, Si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
task of car - ing For the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
that a - stound us, For the truths that still con - found us,



Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, Thanks be to God.
In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
Most of all, that love has found us, Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Emmanuel Paulpeter

POSTLUDE | *Now Thank We All Our God*

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary today by Ben and Nancy Wells in loving memory of her parents, Margaret and Wayne Harpster.

CARING MINISTRY UPDATES

Our prayers and sympathies go out to the following individuals:

Kay McKechnie for the loss of her husband, **Dr. John McKechnie**, on Sunday, October 20, 2024. Condolences to their four children, ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Diane Yarrington for the loss of her husband, **Dr. John Yarrington**, on Monday, October 21, 2024. Condolences to their children Patrick Yarrington, Julie (Kelly) Howard, Christopher (Laura) Yarrington, Ryan (Alyssa) Yarrington, Megan (Rueben) Guillen, and Barbara (Matthew) Atobe, their 14 grandchildren, and John's sister, Pat (Bob) Torvestad.

MUSICIANS

Chancel Choir, Dan Wagner (conductor & Director of Worship), Jeong-Suk Bae (organist & accompanist), and Vickie Wagner (soloist)

Intentional 5K: Logging the Journey

Have you invited a colleague to coffee, encouraged a pew mate to join you in Sunday School, shared details with a neighbor about a Neighborhood Connect gathering, trunk-or-treat, or Alpha, or simply invited another parent to join your family at the park? We want to know! Becoming a community that is intentional about inviting others in takes practice. Let's encourage one another as we work to develop the muscle memory for cultivating community through an intentional invitation. Share your Intentional 5K story at fpchouston.org/intentional5k.

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Curtis A. Bronzan, Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Jon Crantz, Pastor of Community Life

Rev. Dr. Courtney McLaughlin, Pastor of Equipping

Rev. Emmanuel Paulpeter, Pastor of Outreach

Rev. Jeanmarie Tade, Pastor of Caring

THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU *here*

There are many ways for you to gather, grow in community, and serve here at FPC. We invite you to join us for these upcoming events. View additional opportunities at fpchouston.org/events.

Alpha Mornings

Thursdays | Begins Oct 31 | 8 AM | Solarium

Alpha is a series of conversations designed to help process questions about faith in a judgment-free space. Each gathering includes breakfast, a 20-minute video exploring different aspects of Christianity, and discussions in small groups. This is a six-week series—try one or join them all. Diverse perspectives are welcome, so invite a friend. To register, visit fpchouston.org/alpha.

Stephen Ministry Info Session & Lunch

Sun | Nov 3 | 12:30 PM | Living Room

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing challenging life transitions. Come enjoy lunch and hear more about Stephen Ministry and how you can get involved. You'll also learn how to apply for the spring training class. To register, please email caring@fpchouston.org.

Explore FPC Class

Sat | Nov 2 | 9 AM–3 PM | LC 181

We invite you to learn what it means to become a member, or Covenant Partner, of FPC. This class explores the tenets of our reformed faith and ways to engage in discipleship and community with the goal of spiritual maturity. To register, please visit fpchouston.org/explorefpc.

Men's Breakfast

Wed | Nov 20 | 7:30 AM | Fellowship Hall

The FPC Men's Ministry aims to equip men to live the Christian life, devotedly following Jesus, and exhibiting servant leadership in their home, work, and community. Connect with men of all ages over breakfast, scheduled before the workday and Presbyterian School drop off. Register at fpchouston.org/events.

Connect

Are you new to our community?
Text **CONNECT** to **90859** for more info about FPC Houston, ways to get involved, and upcoming events.

On Mission in Giving

FPC Houston exists to *Cultivate Community in the Way of Jesus for the Flourishing of the City*. Your generosity helps impact the people, places, and ministries we serve. To contribute today, text **GIVE** to **90859** or place your gift in an offering box.

Pledge your financial support to the work of our church in the 2025 calendar year using the QR code to the right.

